

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING ON SIMON TRIP - MARCH 4.

REF: USIA 5730

1. ALL PAPERS FRONTPAGE PICTURES, REPORTS ON SECRETARY SIMON, MINISTER RABINOWITZ SIGNING JOINT AGREEMENT, PRESS Q & A SESSION FOLLOWING.

2. HAARETZ FRONTPAGED PICTURES OF SECRETARY AT KNESSET, REPORTED ON 3-DAY TALKS UNDER HEADLINE: "POSSIBLE US AID TO EXPANDING ISRAEL DEFENSE INDUSTRY."

3. SECOND STORY BY ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT AITAN LIFSHITZ (HEADLINED: "SIMON'S VISIT: NO TURNING POINT IN US-ISRAEL ECONOMIC RELATIONS; NEW SPIRIT SEEN -- GOV' OFFICIALS SATISFIED WITH GUESTS PRAISE OF FINANCE MINISTER'S POLICY") SAYS VISIT WAS SEEN AS "GOOD AND PRODUCTIVE." LIFSHITZ QUOTES PRESIDENT OF INDUSTRIALISTS' ASSOC., AVRAHAM SHAVIT, AS SAYING SIMON VISIT WAS "VERY IMPORTANT".

4. HAARETZ BELIEVES MR. SIMON'S PRAISE WAS "GENUINE", BUT CITES TWO POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES:

(1) ARB BOYCOTT, "ON WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS NOT

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FIRM ENOUGH" TO ISRAEL MIND, AND (2) U.S. INVESTMENTS

IN ISRAEL, WHICH IN "SEC. SIMON'S VIEW ARE DIRECTLY
RELATED TO PEACE IN AREA WHEREAS ISRAELI OFFICIALS
TEND TO BLAME RATHER RED TAPE AND ARAB BOYCOTT."

5. HAARETZ EDITORIAL CALLS VISIT "VERY PRODUCTIVE,
DESCRIBES SIMON AS "INTENSIVE AND SMILING." PAPER
SAYS: "HE ADVANCED ALL VISIT'S OBJECTIVES."

6. YEDIOT AHARONOT HEADLINES "US TO HELP ISRAEL
LESSEN DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN AID; US WILL PROVIDE
WHEAT & RAW MATERIALS." ECONOMIC WRITER ZVI
KESSLER SAYS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF AGREEMENT IS
THAT "ISRAEL WON'T SUFFER IN TIMES OF WORLD SHORTAGE
IN BASIC COMMODITIES AND RAW MATERIALS, SINCE US
WOULD TAKE CARE OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS."

7. AL HAMISHMAR HEADLINES "SIMON'S VISIT OPENS
WAY OF EXPORT TO US ARMY." DAVAR AND JERUSALEM POST
PLAYED UP STATEMENTS THAT "SIMON WILL HELP ISRAEL
SELL MORE TO U.S. "DAVAR NOTED THAT ARAB BOYCOTT
WAS MENTIONED "ALBEIT DISCREETLY, IN JOINT
COMMUNIQUE, WITHOUT MENTIONING 'DEVIL' BY NAME."
VOGEL

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